

## Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 AID-20 INT-08 DRC-01 /103 W

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R 081254Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1437

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6704

E.O. 1162: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINT BL

SUBJ: MINERS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. A SOURCE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE MINERS FEDERATION (FSTMB) REPORTS THAT THE FSTMB WILL HOLD ITS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM NOVEMBER 15 TO 18 IN POTOSI.

2. THE SOURCE ALSO REPORTS THAT VICTOR LOPEZ WILL RUN FOR REELECTION AS SECRETARY-GENERAL HEADING A SLATE OF ALMOST ALL CURRENT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ON A PLATFORM WHICH PROPOSES TO DEEMPHASIZE POLITICAL MILITANCY AND EMPHASIZE THE MINERS' ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTERESTS. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, LOPEZ WILL BE OPPOSED BY SINFOROSO CABRERA WHO WILL HAVE THE BACKING OF THE SILES FACTION OF THE MNR, BY ARMANDO MORALES WHO WILL HAVE THE BACKING OF THE RN, THE MNR AND THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, AND BY OSCAR SALAS WHO WILL HAVE THE BACKING OF THE PDB-MOSCOW. SALAS IS EXPECTED TO DROP OUT OF THE RACE BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3. COMMENT: THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION IS AN INTERESTED PARTY TO THE ELECTION AS HE WILL BE A CANDIDATE ON LOPEZ' SLATE. THE EMBASSY WILL CHECK THE ALLEGATION THAT THE MNR AND MINISTRY OF LABOR WILL SUPPORT MORALES WHO HAS PRIN SUPPORT. HOWEVER, THERE IS A CERTAIN LOGIC TO THIS. LOPEZ IS FAR AND AWAY THE BEST KNOWN CANDIDATE TO THE MINERS, AND HE KEEPS THE FSTMB AN EFFECTIVE LABOR ORGANIZATION  
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OUTSIDE OF GOB CONTROL. IF MORALES WON, THE FSTMB WOULD BE

WEAKENED. MORALES HAS BEEN KNOWN TO BE AMENABLE TO BRIBES AT MOMENTS OF CRISIS AND HE MIGHT WELL BE WILLING TO ACT AS A FRONT FOR THE GOB. THEN, TOO, MORALES PLAYS THE ROLE OF A FAR LEFTIST, AND, IF HE SHOULD PROVE UNCOOPERATIVE AT ANY TIME, HE WOULD BE AN EASIER TARGET FOR GOB HARASSMENT OR ARREST THAN LOPEZ, WHO DOES HIS BEST TO APPEAR APOLITICAL. FINALLY, WHILE LOPEZ IS THE BEST KNOWN CANDIDATE NATIONWIDE, MORALES IS AN EXPERT AT FAR LEFT RHETORIC, THE LANGUAGE BEST KNOWN TO THE MINERS, AND WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR FUNDS TO PERMIT HIM TO TRAVEL TO A GREAT MANY MINING SITES, HE MIGHT BE THE ONLY CANDIDATE CAPABLE OF BEATING LOPEZ.  
STEDMAN

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